

ICAPS

The Executive Director

24 February, 1948

Member, ICAPS

Meeting on SANACC Sub-Committee on Psychological Warfare

1. SANACC Sub-Committee on Psychological Warfare met at 09:00 today with the following members present:

Chairman - Mr. Ralph Block	- State Department
Capt. Karl Pochlmann	- Navy Department
Comdr. David Knoll	- Navy Department
Colonel Clyde Rich	- Air Force
Colonel William Hobbins	- War Department
	- CIA

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2. Captain Pochlmann (Navy) spoke very highly of Mr. Paul Linebarger's recent volume "Psychological Warfare", and suggested that it may be profitable for each member of the Sub-Committee to obtain a copy of this book since it would undoubtedly stimulate progressive thinking on the problems which will be facing us. He then gave a synopsis of the contents of the volume, indicating that the first part concerned itself with various definitions. I asked Captain Pochlmann if Mr. Linebarger had made any suggestions as to a new name for this activity to replace "Psychological Warfare". He said Mr. Linebarger had made no specific suggestions but had hinted at what might be included in such a title. Captain Pochlmann has apparently been set up as a committee of one to check into the historical background of the title "Psychological Warfare", and hence I threw into the pot, for his consideration and future Committee action, the title "Political Science Agency".

3. Mr. Ralph Block (State), the Chairman, raised the question how the Russian people can freely express themselves, particularly in the field of fine arts when the dictatorial edicts from the Politburo are constantly applying brakes to the freedom of expression. He illustrated his point by reference to the recent mandates limiting the activities of jazz and blues musicians.

4. Captain Pochlmann read and analyzed 4 or 5 pages of Linebarger's book on the subject of Russia's methodology in psychological warfare activities. Supplementing this statement, Block commented that to understand the mind of the Russians and how this mind must be attacked, it is necessary to go back beyond the period of Marx and Lenin.

OSD & DOS review(s) completed.

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5. At this stage, about one hour after we had convened, Block moved in to take over the meeting and referred to the following items which he felt would be of interest to the Sub-Committee members:

a. Move to permanent quarters scheduled for next Friday, 27 February 1948.

b. General Bull, in talking to the mayors of our cities, stressed the necessity for evolving civilian defense plans now so that we may be ready for attack. General Grove attended this meeting and apparently commented that we had nothing to fear as long as we were brave and well prepared.

c. A Bill S 1801, which is an Act to authorize attendance of civilians at Service schools, was brought to the attention of the Sub-Committee members. Some of the members stated that this Act may be an effort to legalize attendance as students of State Department personnel at the War College.

6. Block pleaded for progress, stating that he was being constantly pulled off into various and sundry tributaries of thought which neutralized the effectiveness of the discussions. There was no doubt in the minds of the Sub-Committee members as to the target of his statement — Captain Poehlmann.

7. Sometime ago each member of the Sub-Committee submitted a statement of the problems confronting the Sub-Committee under its charter of operation. Block and Poehlmann crossed swords on the merit of Poehlmann's proposals. Block stated that Poehlmann's proposals were more in the category of operational details, and that since he wanted to proceed on the basis that first things should come first, he felt that the Committee at this time should limit itself to the development of an organizational outline which would be presented to SANACC for approval, so that the trend of the Sub-Committee work would have SANACC's endorsement.

8. In order that we might move off of "dead center" and in accordance with Block's statement, I made the motion that the development of an outline of organization be the first task of the Committee. This motion was carried unanimously.

9. Captain Poehlmann argued at length that the problem statements submitted by the Sub-Committee members should be accepted by the Sub-Committee as the problems that lie ahead. This suggestion did not sit well with the Sub-Committee members, mainly because they did not want to be tied down to the problems as spelled out in Captain Poehlmann's paper. A compromise motion was carried that the form used by Colonel Ritt be followed for the synthesis of the problems as enumerated by the other Sub-Committee members.

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10. At this juncture, Captain Poehlmann suggested that a proposal made to him by a management engineer of the kind of staff functions required by the Director of Psychological Warfare be used as the basis from which to proceed in the discussion of organization problems. Block did not like this suggestion, stating that the proposal was weak and was merely "compounding the obvious" and, furthermore, that it was a bad procedure for this Sub-Committee to take suggestions from outsiders and evaluate them as to their appropriateness or inappropriateness. It was now after 12 o'clock noon, and in order that we may make some progress in our Committee discussions, I made two motions, each of which was adopted unanimously:

a. First, that each member of the Sub-committee come to the next meeting on Thursday, 26 February 1948, prepared to discuss what should be the main operating divisions of the proposed Psychological Warfare Organization. I would like to receive the suggestions of you and General Wright on this topic. Is there someone in OC or in OSD who has a prime working interest in the field of psychological warfare?

b. That the discussions on matters of secondary interest to the Sub-Committee be limited to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour at the beginning of each meeting.

11. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1220.



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